



Loa Fish Hatchery rebuild would yield widespread benefits

More jobs for rural Utah and big, healthy fish for anglers statewide

Fishing is big business in Utah! Annually, fishing contributes about \$1.1 billion to Utah's economy and supports more than 7,500 jobs*.

In 2020 alone, the state had more than 603,000 licensed anglers — an increase of 100,000 anglers over the previous year. It was also a year when fishing brought families together outdoors, providing a great way to relax and unwind during the stresses of the pandemic.



With these conditions in mind, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is committed to meeting anglers' expectations and providing them with outstanding fishing opportunities. One of the best ways to do so — while helping Utah's rural communities and reducing the current strain on the state's fish hatchery system — is to rebuild and upgrade the Loa Fish Hatchery.

Meeting increased demand and planning for the future

Originally built in the 1930s, the Loa Fish Hatchery was once Utah's most productive trout hatchery. It has a good, reliable water source that flows at the ideal temperature for raising trout. Under optimal conditions, the hatchery can grow very big fish in very little time.

Unfortunately, Loa's crumbling infrastructure — and a population of invasive New Zealand mudsnails — resulted in the hatchery's closure in 2014. The closure reduced Utah's total hatchery capacity by approximately 180,000 pounds of fish and put an immediate strain on the other hatcheries in the system.

* Economic Contributions of Recreational Fishing Within U.S. States and Congressional Districts, American Sportfishing Association, January 2019

Now, with the public's widespread interest in fishing — and the double whammy of record population growth and extreme drought conditions — fishery managers think Loa provides the state's best hope for improving fish production and meeting the long-term needs of anglers.

If the Loa Hatchery is rebuilt with the latest technological upgrades and improvements, it will be a state-of-the-art facility capable of producing 350,000 pounds of fish annually. That's nearly **double** its previous production rate. It would raise hundreds of thousands of 10- to 12-inch rainbow trout for stocking in Utah's lakes and reservoirs.



Bringing new, good-paying jobs to Wayne County

A rebuilt Loa Fish Hatchery would require a full-time six-person crew to run and maintain the facility. According to state experts*, employing six people in Wayne County has the same economic effect as employing 1,266 people along the Wasatch Front.

The average yearly income in Wayne County is \$33,852, but employees of the Loa Hatchery would be paid approximately \$47,000. In just one year, roughly \$282,000 would enter the local economy in Wayne County because of these six jobs, helping to support the area's families and businesses. Over many years, the benefits to the county would multiply into the millions.

Improving the quality of life for Utah anglers

Reconstruction of the Loa Fish Hatchery will substantially increase the number of fish produced in Utah each year. This is important for two main reasons:

It will help anglers have fun, active fishing trips, even though the state's overall population is increasing and the number of anglers has gone up. Catching fish regularly will improve anglers' satisfaction and quality of life, which will keep them fishing for years to come.

The additional fish-rearing space at the Loa Hatchery will reduce the strain on Utah's other hatcheries, simplify fish redistribution, improve hatchery fish-rearing conditions and help the DWR meet annual requests for healthy, stockable fish.

* Data provided by the Department of Workforce Services, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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